

## NEPA Next 50: Reflections on the National Environmental Policy Act Federal Agency Dialogue on Engagement and Consultation

### Speaker Biographies

#### Day 2: Engaging Native Nations and Incorporating Government-to-Government Consultation in the NEPA Process

##### Keynote Address

##### Jaime Pinkham, Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works)



Mr. Jaime A. Pinkham was appointed to the position of Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works on April 19, 2021, and is also serving as the Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works.

As the Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, he establishes policy direction and supervises the Department of the Army functions relating to all aspect of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers' Civil Works program. These responsibilities include programs for conservation and development of the nation's water and wetland resources, flood control, navigation and aquatic ecosystem restoration.

Prior to his appointment, he served as the executive director of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission in Portland, Oregon, since 2017. Prior to that position, he was the vice president of the Bush

Foundation, a private foundation in St. Paul, Minnesota. He led the Foundation's Native nations program and worked with tribes across North Dakota, South Dakota and Minnesota as they redesigned their governing systems. He spent the previous two decades in the Pacific Northwest advocating for tribal sovereignty, self-determination and treaty rights.

He is a citizen of the Nez Perce Tribe and was selected twice to the tribal council. He is married and has two daughters and three grandchildren. He enjoys fishing, hunting, and hiking. When he times his trips just right, back home to Nez Perce Country, he can be found sitting around the drum singing the old songs in the old way.

## Panelists

### **Anne Thomas, Forest NEPA Coordinator, U.S. Forest Service**



Anne Thomas is the Forest NEPA Coordinator for the Tonto National Forest. After graduating from Utah State University with a Master's Degree in Human Dimensions of Ecosystem Science and Management, she worked in Utah for the Forest Service Regional Office, where she authored *¡Bienvenidos! A guide to serving Spanish-speaking visitors in the Intermountain Region*. From there she worked on the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest conducting stand exams and post fire restoration projects. She then became the interdisciplinary team leader for the Giant Sequoia National Monument Plan on the Sequoia National Forest. In 2012, Anne and her wife and dogs moved to Phoenix, Az where she has been the Forest NEPA Coordinator on the Tonto National Forest for the past 9 years. She has worked on many projects, including Travel Management, Forest Plan

Revision, two mining projects, and several range allotment projects. She also serves on an agency-wide Adaptive Management Learning Group and teaches NEPA across the agency.

### **Hillary Renick, Tribal Liaison Coordinator, U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management**



Hillary Renick is Tribal Liaison Coordinator for the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Headquarters in Washington, D.C. Ms. Renick is alumni of the Indigenous Food Initiative at the University of Arkansas as an LL.M. Fellow in Agriculture and Food Law with support from First Nations. She received her J.D. from the University of the Oregon School of Law, with certificates of completion in Environmental and Natural Resources, Ocean and Coastal Law, Pro Bono, and Public Service. She was a Research Assistant for Professor Mary Christina Wood, researching Nature's Trust and Public Trust Doctrine as it relates to Climate Change while working with Oregon's nine tribes on water and environmental related issues. She also completed graduate studies in Cultural Resource Management as a Bureau of Reclamation Fellow at Central Washington University, successfully defending her Master's Thesis on Yakama Indian Treaty Fishing and Significance of Traditional Place.

*(Hillary Renick Biography continued)*

Ms. Renick studied Public Health at George Washington University assisting Dr. David Goldsmith with his research on Native American health problems associated with exposure to agricultural pesticides in agriculture and during artifact repatriation. Hillary was Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for her Tribe for ten years, tribal judge, and Udall Intern in the Office of Senator Maria Cantwell on Capitol Hill. Hillary received her B.A. in Anthropology from American University in Washington, D.C. and is an enrolled member of the Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians and descendant of the Hopland Shanel, Noyo River Indian and Ft. McDermitt Paiute-Shoshone communities. Hillary is a member of the Department of Interior Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) Team assisting tribes during wildfire events. Hillary's work is focused on land, air, water, cultural resources, and traditional hunting, fishing, gathering protections.

### **Mark Gilfillan, Senior Tribal Liaison, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**



Mark Gilfillan is a Senior Tribal Liaison for the Tribal Nations Technical Center of Expertise, US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). He is of loway descendency and an enrolled member of the Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas and Nebraska. With the Sac and Fox, he served as the Tribal Gaming Chairman, including duties for NAGPRA tribal representation. Also for the Sac and Fox, he developed Economic Development and Sovereignty Plans, and recently completed an extensive Treaty Analysis for tribal court adjudication.

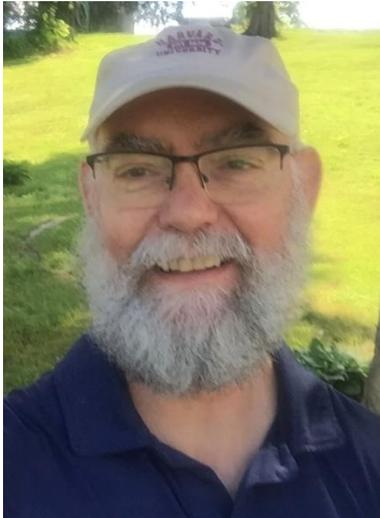
With the USACE Sacramento District, he served as a Regulatory Project Manager for 12 years. In 2007, he became the Tribal Liaison (TL) for Sacramento District, assisting South Pacific Division, HQ-USACE, Office of the Assistant of the Secretary of the Army, and the Department of Defense, with tribal training programs and initiatives. His responsibilities as the District TL included the development of the District's Tribal Nations Program and consultations undertaken between 90 Indian Tribes within the District's 6 state area of responsibility. Additionally, for the last 5 years, he is the Tribal Liaison for the US Army regarding the Carlisle Indian Industrial School disinterment actions, and the return of Indian students to families and tribes.

He started his career in 1985 with the US Department of Energy as an environmental scientist, covering a wide range of contaminant and treatment issues, including National Science Foundation, grant work, for the transfer of science and engineering curriculum to the American Indian Higher Education Consortium. In 1996, he transitioned to a senior scientist position, in the private sector, with various Engineering firms and with the state of Kansas, for Brownfields and RCRA related work. He has a B.S. in Environmental Restoration and Waste Management from Colorado Mesa University, and a Master of Jurisprudence, in Indian Law, from the University of Tulsa.

Mark lives in Grand Junction, Colorado with his wife and four children. The family fostered two Sac and Fox children under provisions of the Indian Child Welfare Act. His interests include rafting, skiing, biking, camping, hiking, hunting, and fishing.

## Closing Address

### **Fred Clark, USDA Forest Service (retired)**



A citizen of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, *M'skwasen*, (Red Rock) is also known by his non-Native name, Fred Clark. Now retired from the USDA Forest Service, Fred served for more than 13 years as the Director of the agency's Tribal Relations Program, where he steered the Forest Service and other Federal Agencies toward more timely, meaningful, and effective nation-to-nation consultations and partnerships. These efforts were focused on ensuring that tribal communities had realistic opportunities to make tangible differences in decisions about actions that affect lands precious to Tribes, as well as the public. Fred's association with NEPA as it applies to tribal nations and federal land managing agencies started in earnest in 1990, when he was instrumental in developing a partnership between the Kenaitze Indian Tribe and the Chugach National Forest in Alaska.

Across his more than 30 years of public service, Fred also served as a Regional Council Coordinator for the Federal Subsistence Program in Alaska, as the Regional Social Scientist and Human Dimensions Program Leader for the Eastern Region of the Forest Service, and as an archaeologist for universities, the BIA, and the National Park Service. Fred holds a master's degree in Anthropology and Public Administration.

Fred joins us today enjoying a brief respite from fixing his and his wife's log cabin in Montana, gathering a winter's supply of firewood, and puzzling over a very finicky water system.